

REMARKS

Applicants request consideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 16, and 18 being independent. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 17-21 are newly added. Support for these claims may be found in the specification. No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments.


Claims 1-16 were all previously allowed.

Applicants have filed an Information Disclosure Statement concurrently herewith, citing JP 7-171142. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-21 are patentable over JP 7-171142.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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